

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EA-10 ISO-00 PA-01 AID-05 CIAE-00 COME-00
EB-08 FRB-03 INR-10 NSAE-00 ICA-11 TRSE-00 XMB-02
OPIC-03 SP-02 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 NSC-05 SS-15
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FM AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1646
INFO AMEMBASSY MANILA

CONFIDENTIAL LIBREVILLE 2437

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: BENC, GB
SUBJECT: PORT GENTIL URBAN MASTER PLAN

REF: LIBREVILLE 1774, STATE 159576 AND PREVIOUS (ALL NOTAL)

1. DURING INTERVIEW ON ESSENTIALLY OTHER SUBJECTS WHICH CARRIED BY LIBREVILLE MEDIA AUG 31 AND SEPT 1, PRESIDENT BONGO ACCUSED PHILIPPINES OF "CAPITALISME SAUVAGE" IN MATTER OF PROT GENTIL PROJECTS (REFTELS), LEADING LISTENERS TO BELIEVE THAT ARRANGEMENTS WITH FILIPINOS MIGHT NOT BE CONSUMMATED FOR THIS PROJECT. ("CAPITALISME SAUVAGE" IS ONE OF BONGO'S PET BUGABOOS. IT PROBABLY ROUGHLY TRANSLATES INTO RAMPANT CAPITALISM) SLAP AT PHILIPPINES WAS NOT CARRIED IN PRESS, ONLY ON RADIO AND TV.

2. FILIPINO AMBASSADOR LATER TOLD ME THAT THERE WAS INDEED PROBLEM. OF PRIMARY CONCERN TO GABONESE ARE PREPARATIONS FOR 1979 INDEPENDENCE DAY (AUG 17) CELEBRATIONS, WHICH WILL BE HELD AT PORT GENTIL. PHILIPPINE GOVERNMENT WAS WILLING GUARANTEE FINANCING OF SOME DOLS 500 MILLION FOR VARIOUS PORT GENTIL PROJECTS, INCLUDING THOSE FOR INDEPENDENCE DAY FOR 10-YEAR PERIOD. GOG INSISTED ON 15 YEARS. THERE HAS BEEN NO MEETING OF MINDS, AND FILIPINO AMBASSADOR IS NOT NOW SURE THAT THERE EVER WILL BE. SOME OF MY DIPLOMATIC

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COLLEAGUES THUS EXPECT YUGOSLAV CONSTRUCTION COMPANIES ALREADY HERE WILL BE ASKED TAKE ON AT LEAST THOSE PROJECTS DEEMED NECESSARY FOR INDEPENDENCE DAY (THEY DID SAME FOR CELEBRATIONS AT OYEM LAST MONTH). YUGOSLAV AMBASSADOR IS NOT DENYING POSSIBILITY. WHILE REFERENCE TO "CAPITALISME SAUVAGE" WAS OMITTED FROM PRESS ACCOUNT, REPORT OF PHILIPPINES/GABON DIFFERENCES OVER FINANCING DID APPEAR, INCLUDING REFERENCE TO DISAGREEMENT OVER TIME

PERIOD FOR REPAYMENT (NO NUMBERS MENTIONED) AS BEING REASON FOR
"DEPARTURE" OF FILIPINOS FROM PORT GENTIL. TIENKEN

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